

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 1, 12 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-35 remain pending.

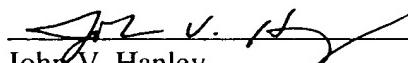
In the Advisory Action dated January 12, 2004, the Examiner stated that the independent claims 1, 12 and 17 do not explicitly call for an exclusion of a conventional joint technique such as spot welding or film or gluing. Accordingly, the independent claims have been amended to recite such an exclusion in order to place the application in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By:   
John V. Hanley  
Registration No. 38,171

JVH/kst  
Howard Hughes Center  
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Telephone: (310) 824-5555  
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696  
Customer No. 24201  
21792.4